

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 NSCE-00

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS PRIORITY 0291

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GENEVA FOR MTN DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EAGR

SUBJECT: MTN: MTN COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

REF: A) STATE 20100

B) STATE 21477

C) EC BRUSSELS 784

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTELS A AND B, AMBAS-
SADOR GREENWALD PRESENTED THE US POSITION TO SOAMES AND RE-
QUESTED HIS PERSONAL EFFORT TO ACHIEVE EC FLEXIBILITY ON THE
AGRICULTURAL ISSUE. SOAMES AGREED ON DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING
A US/EC CONFRONTATION AT THE FEBRUARY 11 TNC SESSION. HE
RECALLED EARLIER DIFFICULTIES AND EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING
OF US SUSPICIONS. DESPITE SENSITIVITIES ON THE AGRICULTURAL
QUESTION, SOAMES INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION IS PREPARED
TO ENGAGE IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD NOT
PREJUDICE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE. END SUMMARY.

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2. AMBASSADOR GREENWALD MET WITH EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES ON JANUARY 30 WITH HANNAY AND JIJZEN ALSO PRESENT. (MISSION OFFICERS HAD PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED THE SITUATION WITH JIJZEN SEPARATELY WHEN SOAMES NOT AVAILABLE ON JANUARY 29.) BASING HIS PRESENTATION ON REFTELS A AND B, AMBASSADOR GREENWALD POINTED OUT THAT A CONFRONTATION OVER THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE FOR HANDLING AGRICULTURE AT THE OUTSET OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT SERVE ANYONE'S INTERESTS. US IS FLEXIBLE AND PREPARED TO WORK WITH THE COMMISSION TO FIND A COMPROMISE. BUT THE US CANNOT ACCEPT AN OUTCOME WHICH EITHER DELAYS THE NEGOTIATIONS OR WHICH ISOLATES AGRICULTURE FROM INDUSTRY. THE COMMUNITY POSITION THAT AGRICULTURE COULD BE DEALT WITH ONLY IN A SEPARATE, SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS CONTRARY TO OUR OBJECTIVE OF INCLUDING BOTH AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY FULLY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASKED FOR SOAMES' PERSONAL HELP IN GETTING THE MATTER SETTLED SO THE FEBRUARY 11 TNC SESSION WOULD NOT START OFF WITH A US/EC FIGHT.

3. SOAMES AGREED THAT SUCH AN IMPASSE WOULD HAVE UNFORTUANTE POLITICAL EFFECTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE PRESENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR HAS SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE HANDLED IN THE SAME WAY AS INDUSTRY. HE NEVERTHELESS RECOGNIZED THAT SERIOUS QUESTIONS COULD BE RAISED ABOUT THE COMMUNITY'S INTENTIONS BY AN EXCESSIVELY RIGID ATTITUDE ON THE OPENING PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS. THERE ARE SUSPICIONS AND SENSITIVITIES ON BOTH SIDES WHICH WILL BE DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME.

4. ASKED FOR THEIR OPINIONS BY SOAMES, HANNAY AND JIJZEN BOTH SAID THAT THE APPROACH SUGGESTED IN REFTEL B, PARA 3, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE SLAEABLE TO FRANCE AND OTHER MEMBER STATES. THEY AGREED THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO FIND AN APPROACH WHICH WOULD BE LESS RIGID THAN THE PRESENT INSISTENCE ON HAVING ALL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE TREATED BY ONE COMMITTEE EXCLUSIVELY. HIJZEN SAID HE HAD ALREADY DONE SOME WORK ON THIS POINT AND BELIEVED THAT SOME NTBS NEED NOT BE DIVIDED UP INTO INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE DIDN'T SEE IMMEDIATELY THE SOLUTION FOR TARIFFS, IMPORT AND EXPORT RESTRICTIONS AND SUBSIDIES. THESE ARE THE AREAS IN WHICH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMISSION WILL HAVE THE GREATEST DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A FORMULA ACCEPTABLE TO MEMBER STATES WHICH DOES NOT TOTALLY SEPARATE INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

5. SOAMES CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD WELCOME INFORMAL TALKS IN BRUSSELS BEFORE FEBRUARY 10 WITH AN APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON OFFICIAL. THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS.

AMBASSADOR GREENWALD SAID HE WOULD CONVEY SOAMES' REACTION
TO WASHINGTON. HE URGED THAT THE COMMISSION ALSO LOOK FOR
MUTUALLY-ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES SINCE WE HAVE A JOINT INTEREST
IN FINDING A SOLUTION PROMPTLY.GREENWALD

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